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As compared with the former edition the present is distinguished chiefly, of course, by the revision of the lists of books; this work has been done so far as we have observed with good judgment. Of course every scholar will miss some books that he would expect to see, but this is of necessity the case in a selected bibliography. It is better that it should be so than that the book should be overloaded with titles of works of doubtful value. Aside from the revision of the lists of books, the most notable changes are as follows: The section "What is Religion?" has been rewritten, the matter on pp. 47-57 being largely new. Pp. 77-79 and 87-89 show revision and enlargement. Pp. 123-145, Devotional books, and books on Theology in general, and pp. 327-340 on Biblical Archæology, are almost entirely new matter. On the other hand the "Outline of Natural Theology" contained in the old edition, pp. 144-148, is omitted in the new.

The book as a whole may be heartily commended to all who are interested in the study of theology in any of its branches. We wish it could be in the hands of every minister and theological student in the country, and we are sure that it would be a most useful book to many of the more intelligent laymen, especially those who are studying the Bible with a view to teaching it.

E. D. B.

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**The Bible as Literature.** By PROFESSOR R. G. MOULTON, PH.D.,  
REV. JOHN P. PETERS, D.D., PROFESSOR A. B. BRUCE, D.D.,  
and others. New York and Boston: T. Y. Crowell & Co.  
1896. 8vo, pp. 375. Price \$1.50.

This volume is a compilation of brief studies the purpose of which is to approach the various books and authors included in the Scripture canon from a purely literary point of view, the word literary being interpreted in the main as having less to do with historical analysis and disputed questions of authorship than with the actual content of the works and their forms of expression. Many of the studies are by men whose training has been directly in the line of biblical interpretation. The Free Church College of Glasgow, the Episcopal Divinity School of Philadelphia, Union Theological Seminary, and the seminaries of Hartford, Auburn, Chicago, Cambridge, Oberlin, Newton, and Yale are represented. Some of the articles are by ministers, among whom are Dr. Lyman Abbott, Dr. Lowrie, Dr. Van Dyke, and Dr. Whiton. A few of the studies are by men whose work as a whole has been in general rather than in biblical literary criticism, as Professor Genung

of Amherst, Professor A. S. Cook of Yale, and Professor Moulton of The University of Chicago. Whatever differences of creed or whatever difference of attitude in the polemics of critical scholarship these men may represent, they unite in this book on one point, namely, that the Bible is unparalleled for its strength and beauty by any other of the world literatures. The chapter by Mr. Cook emphasizes the influence which this great literature has had on masters of English. He cites many passages from famous authors not distinctively religious to show how inextricably the diction, the turns of speech, the figures of the Bible are interwoven with what is most enduring and eloquent in English writings. Charles Wordsworth's *Shakespeare and the Bible* (1864) and Dr. Van Dyke's study of "The Bible in 'Tennyson'" (*The Poetry of Tennyson*, 1880) are elaborate specific proofs of statements made by Professor Cook. Many other such specific studies might be made. The *Essays of Elia*, for instance, can hardly be appreciated to the full by one who must look up his biblical allusions for the occasion. Much of the flavor and point of Matthew Arnold's prose is lost upon one unfamiliar with Bible phraseology. The natural inference is that in the name of general culture and good English alone the plea for a universal and intelligent knowledge of the Bible would be one of great strength. But this volume does not rest its plea here. The book has the same underlying aim as Mr. Moulton's more elaborate and technical work, *The Literary Study of the Bible* (1896). Both help the mind to escape from traditional and benumbing misconceptions. To free single books of the Bible from the bondage of verse and chapter, to disintegrate the whole collection into its separate parts, forcing the reader to recognize differences of dates, and varieties of literary forms and of historic setting, is certainly an almost inestimable service in the way of real appreciation and understanding. It might seem at first thought irreverent to study Isaiah as one would Milton, to note, for instance, the particular qualities of his style, his compression, his vividness, his sublimity, his humor; to think of the Psalms as a golden treasury of sacred lyrics, of Job as a great drama, of Ruth as a prose idyl. But the impression of irreverence cannot last, for the final outcome of such study is a deeper sense of spiritual significance. In great poems such as Browning's "Pippa Passes" or Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," there is profound spiritual teaching, but this teaching is not most deeply felt if directly and exclusively sought. A close, even technical, study of general form, felicity of phrase, vividness of picture, seems to let the mind eddy about the thought until it enters the consciousness not as a

bare thought, but with pomp and color and circumstance, with the very mood and spirit of the author himself. Why should not similar study bring similar results when brought to bear on the lyrics, the dramas, the wisdom writings, the letters, the essays of the Bible? Books such as the one before us are not meant to substitute literature for religion. They merely open up fresh avenues to a real understanding of the Bible. What was before fragmentary has been seen as a whole. The imagination has been stirred to larger activity, the sense for beauty is awake, and the mind and heart combine in a new and warm realization of spiritual verities. M. R.

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**Recent Research in Bible Lands; its Progress and Results.** Edited by HERMAN V. HILPRECHT. Philadelphia: John D. Wattles & Co. 1896. Pp. xiv + 269. With a map. Price \$1.50.

This book contains a series of articles<sup>1</sup> originally prepared for the *Sunday School Times* by a number of American and European specialists and edited by Professor Hilprecht of the University of Pennsylvania.

I. The most important for the layman—and they are all written for the layman rather than for the specialist—is the first, “Oriental Research and the Bible,” by Professor McCurdy. In a few pages he sums up the results obtained (1) from Egyptian literature and archæology (*cf.* the special chapter by Sayce); (2) from Arabic literature (*cf.* the special chapter by Hommel); (3) from excavations in the Holy Land (*cf.* the special chapter by Bliss); and (4) from Babylonian and Assyrian literature. We may pass over (2) and (3) and take McCurdy’s estimate of (1) and (4). Of the former he says (pp. 7, 8): “And yet it must be admitted that comparatively few results of first-class importance for biblical science have so far been achieved by Egyptology. Its value for Bible study is indeed great, but it is rather indirect than direct. Its discoveries and assured results are interesting and educative in the highest degree, but they have not as yet satisfied

<sup>1</sup> The table of contents is as follows: Oriental Research and the Bible (pp. 1–28), PROFESSOR J. F. MCCURDY, PH.D., LL.D.; The Mounds of Palestine (pp. 29–42), FREDERICK JONES BLISS, PH.D.; Explorations in Babylonia (pp. 43–94), PROFESSOR HERMAN V. HILPRECHT, PH.D., D.D.; Research in Egypt (pp. 95–128), PROFESSOR A. H. SAYCE, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L.; Discoveries and Researches in Arabia (pp. 129–158), PROFESSOR FRITZ HOMMEL, PH.D.; The Hittites (pp. 159–190), WILLIAM HAYES WARD, D.D., LL.D.; Early Greek Manuscripts from Egypt (pp. 191–226), PROFESSOR J. P. MAHAFFY, D.D., D.C.L.; New Light on the Book of Acts (pp. 227–242), PROFESSOR W. M. RAMSAY, LL.D., D.C.L.; Topical Index (pp. 245–266); Scriptural Index (p. 266); Chronological Index (pp. 267–269); Map.